

Pine Bush Project

Students grades 6 and 7

The Program

The Pine Bush Project is an interdisciplinary, hands-on community-based program that enhances ecological awareness and restoration and builds on students' science skills. The Albany Pine Bush, an inland pine barrens preserve, provides an open laboratory in which students work in collaboration with scientists from across the U.S. and Canada in authentic ecological research. They collect data, publish their results, and share them with other scientists and the community. Students work through an interdisciplinary curriculum, field trips, and library research. They directly contribute to the preservation of this ecosystem.

The program is based on thematic instruction and student inquiry. Through varied instruction activities – individual research projects, group assignments, experiential learning, mentoring, informal and formal presentations, community services, student-led activities, and program enhancements – students are provided with a number of approaches to best suit their learning and educational needs. Such instruction also provides for the diverse needs of all students in meeting the high learning standards.

Results

One hundred of the 400 7th grade participants are pre- and post-tested each year with the Test of Integrated Process Skills, measuring science process skills. Results from the 1994-95 to 1999-2000 school years are significant, with changes ranging from +3.6 to +6.2 (a change in score of 4 was found to be significant).



Learning Standards

Mathematics, Science & Technology: 1) use mathematical analysis, scientific inquiry, and engineering design as appropriate to pose questions, seek answers, and develop solutions; 4) understand and apply scientific concepts, principles and theories pertaining to the physical setting and living environment and recognize the historical development of ideas in science.

Contact

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